



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

December 10, 1998

Mr. John T. Conway
Chairman
Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board
625 Indiana Avenue, N.W., Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20004-2901

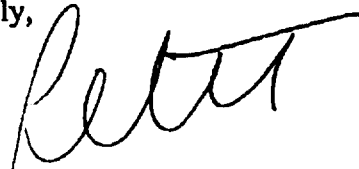
Dear Mr. Chairman 

Thank you for your October 30, 1998, letter to Secretary of Energy Bill Richardson on the importance of the joint U.S./Russian radiation health effects studies conducted under the auspices of the U.S./Russian Joint Coordinating Committee for Radiation Effects Research (JCCRER). We share your interest in and support of these studies and will continue to make the timely and effective completion of the work in the Southern Urals one of our top research priorities.

My Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health Studies, Dr. Paul Seligman, is also coordinating with other Department of Energy organizations conducting related joint U.S./Russian programs. I understand the Board is aware of the Nuclear Cities Initiative, a new Office of Nonproliferation and National Security (NN) effort to provide civilian employment for displaced weapons workers in ten closed Russian nuclear cities including the site of current JCCRER studies, Mayak, and the site that Board member, Dr. John E. Mansfield, suggested may hold promise for future radiation health effects studies, Krasnoyarsk-26. We are working closely with NN to share information and explore opportunities to partner in our activities with the Russians.

Thank you again for your interest in the JCCRER studies. We will be certain to keep you apprised of their progress.

Sincerely,



Peter N. Brush
Acting Assistant Secretary
Environment, Safety and Health

